CLAIMS:

1. A tensioning system for tensioning cable comprising:

a cable spacing member with a plurality of cable spacing portions for spacing apart a plurality of runs of cable;

a support for supporting the cable spacing member;

one or more adjustable positioning members for positioning the cable spacing member relative to the support wherein, in use, adjustment of the one or more adjustable positioning members to position the cable spacing member relative to the support adjusts the tension in the runs of cable.

2. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 1, wherein adjustment of the one or more adjustable positioning members is adapted to move the cable spacing member in a direction substantially parallel to a longitudinal direction of the runs of cable.

3. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~either preceding~~ claim 1, wherein each cable spacing portion includes one or more apertures and/or slots in the cable spacing member.

4. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 3, wherein respective apertures or slots are spaced apart to space apart respective runs of cable.

5. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the cable spacing member includes at least three cable spacing portions.

6. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the cable spacing member includes four or more cable spacing portions.

7. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein, in use, the cable spacing member is located inside the support.

8. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the support is generally tubular and includes one or more openings along the length thereof for runs of cable to pass through.

9. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the support includes one or more longitudinal slots for cables to pass through.

10. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the or each longitudinal slot is long compared to the radial dimensions of the support.

11. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the adjustable positioning members are adapted for manual operation.

12. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the adjustable positioning members are manually operable by use of a tool.

13. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 11, wherein at least one of the adjustable positioning members includes a mechanism which provides a mechanical advantage, so that applying an input force to operate the positioning member results in a greater force being applied to move the bar relative to the support.

14. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 13, wherein at least one of the adjustable positioning members includes a bolt or a bolt-like fastener.

15. A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 7, wherein at least one adjustable positioning member extends from an external region of the support into an internal region of the support.

16. (DELETED)

17. (DELETED)

18. (DELETED)

19. (DELETED)

20. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein one or more of the cable spacing portions includes a contour which extends from a lateral edge of the cable spacing member, the contour preferably comprising a laterally extending slot to allow lengths of cable to be introduced laterally into the cable spacing portions.

21. (AMENDED) A tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the cable spacing member includes two or more parts, which may be coupled together, in use, to form a single cable spacing member.

22. A tensioning system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the parts are designed so that at least one of the parts is configured to receive lengths of cable into cable spacing portions before coupling with another part to form a single cable spacing member, and so that after coupling, separation of the lengths of cable from the cable spacing member is inhibited by the other part.

23. (AMENDED) A tensioning system wherein a tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 is used for securing and applying a tensioning force to a first end of each run of cable and wherein positioning and/or securing means for the second end of each run of cable includes a tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

24. (AMENDED) A barrier including a tensioning system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

25. A barrier as claimed in claim 24, wherein, in use, the barrier forms part or all of a fence or balustrade.

26. (AMENDED) A barrier as claimed in ~~either of~~ claims ~~24 or~~ 25, wherein, the barrier includes a support and a cable spacing member for supporting and applying a tensioning force to a first end of each of a plurality of runs of cable, and a secondary support for positioning and/or retaining a second end of each of a plurality of runs of cable.

27. (AMENDED) A barrier as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims ~~24 to~~ 26, wherein the barrier includes one or more bracing members for bracing apart the support and the secondary support.

28. A method of tensioning a plurality of runs of cable, comprising:

coupling at least one length of cable to a cable spacing member having cable spacing portions thereon for spacing apart a plurality of runs of cable, and coupling said at least one length of cable to a secondary cable spacing member having cable spacing portions thereon for spacing apart a plurality of runs of cable, in order to provide a plurality of runs of cable between the cable spacing member and the secondary cable spacing member;

locating the cable spacing member relative to a support;

providing one or more adjustable positioning members for adjustably positioning the cable spacing member relative to the support;

locating the secondary cable spacing member relative to a secondary support;

adjusting the one or more adjustable positioning members in order to tension the runs of cable.

29. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the method is a method of tensioning a plurality of runs of cable in forming a fence or similar barrier.

30. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~either of~~ claims ~~28 or~~ 29, wherein locating the cable spacing member relative to a support comprises inserting the cable spacing member into a hollow support.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the support is generally tubular and is provided with a longitudinal slot through which, in use, runs of cable extend from the cable spacing member to the outside of the support.

32. (DELETED)

33. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim ~~32~~ 28, wherein the method includes using a spreader device to space apart the support and the secondary support prior to final adjustment of the adjustable positioning members.

34. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 28 ~~to 33~~, wherein the method includes insertion of one or more bracing members between the support and the secondary support.

35. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 28 ~~to 34~~, wherein the method includes forming a substantially rigid panel comprising a cable spacing member located relative to a support; a secondary cable spacing member located relative to a secondary support; a plurality of runs of cable; and one or more bracing members and/or spreader devices bracing apart the support and the secondary support.

36. (DELETED)

37. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim ~~36~~ 35, wherein the method includes adjustment of the one or more adjustable positioning members after fixing the substantially rigid panel in said desired location.

38. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~either of~~ claims ~~36 or 37~~ 35, wherein the substantially rigid panel includes one or more spreader devices but no bracing bars prior to fixing of the latter of the support and secondary support in the desired location, and the method includes subsequent insertion of one or more bracing bars between the support and secondary support and subsequent removal of the one or more spreader devices.

39. A method of tensioning a plurality of runs of cable, comprising:

providing a plurality of tensioning mechanisms, each tensioning mechanism including

a spacing member for attachment of the end or respective first ends of one or more runs of cable;

connecting one or more ends of one or more runs of cable to each tensioning mechanism;

inserting each tensioning mechanism into a hollow support member;

providing at least one adjustable positioning member to form part of each tensioning mechanism, each adjustable positioning member extending from an outside to an inside of the associated hollow support member and engaging a spacing member, inside the hollow support member so that adjustment of the adjustable positioning member moves the associated spacing member relative to the hollow support in order to adjust the tension in at least one run of cable; and

adjusting adjustable positioning members to adjust tension in at least one run of cable.

40. A barrier including a tensioning system for tensioning cable, comprising:

a plurality of runs of cable which run between a first support and a second support;

a plurality of cable tensioning mechanisms, each tensioning mechanism comprising a spacing member for attachment of the end, or respective first ends, of one or more runs of cable, said spacing members being provided within at least one of the supports and wherein each spacing member has at least one associated adjustable positioning member for adjusting the position of the spacing member relative to the support; and

said adjustable positioning member extending from the outside of the associated support to the associated spacing member located within the support so that the tensioning mechanism can be operated from the outside of the support.

41. A barrier as claimed in claim 40, wherein at least one of the supports is a tubular member with a longitudinal slot through which runs of cable pass.

42. (DELETED)

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46. (DELETED)